

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 L-03

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 SWF-02 TRSE-00 IO-14

DRC-01 /133 W

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R 311551Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 4456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, UNCTAD, UN, LI

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: CONVENTION ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER
CONFERENCES

REF: A. STATE 164561

B. STATE A-5007

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY NEEDS MORE SPECIFIC TALKING POINTS BEFORE
MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO GOL ON SUBJECT CONVENTION. END
SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO RAISING ISSUE OF CONVENTION
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ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES WITH APPROPRIATE LOCAL

AUTHROITEIS. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO DOING SO, WOULD APPRECIATE MORE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE/TALKING POINTS TAILORED TO FIT LIBERIAN CASE. IN PREPARING THIS, ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) FROM FOREIGN POLICY STANDPOINT, GOL HAS INCREASING TENDENCY SIDE WITH THIRD WORLD WHEN ITS OWN VITAL INTERESTS NOT AT STAKE.

(B) GOL MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR IS AMERICAN PRIVATE FIRM, INTERNATIONAL TRUST CO. (INTRUSCO), WHICH HEADQUARTERED 103 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK. INTRUSCO OPERATES MARITIME REGISTRY UNDER AUTHORITY OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE, NOT FOREIGN MINISTRY. MINISTRY OF FINANCE INTERESTED PRIMARILY (IF NOT EXCLUSIVELY) IN REVENUE POTENTIAL OF SHIP REGISTRY. FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS SELDOM, IF EVER, TAKE PRECEDENCE.

(C) LIBERIA'S FLAG OF CONVENIENCE IS PURELY AND SIMPLY A REVENUE GENERATING MECHANISM, AND A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ONE. MARITIME REVENUES (REGISTRATION FEES, ANNUAL TONNAGE TAXES, CHANGE OF NAME FEES, ETC.) HAVE INCREASED FROM \$6.1 MILLION, OR 8 PER CENT OF TOTAL GOL REVENUES IN 1971 TO \$8.6 MILLION, OR 9.5 PER CENT OF REVENUES IN 1973. PROJECTIONS FOR 1974 ARE FOR RECEIPTS OF \$10.9 MILLION, OR 11.4 PER CENT OF EXPECTED GOL REVENUES.

(D) WITH ONLY MINOR EXCEPTIONS, LIBERIAN FLAG SHIPS DO NOT SERVE LIBERIAN PORTS. INDEED, TO DO SO WOULD MAKE THEM SUBJECT TO INCOME TAXES FOR WHICH THEY NOT OTHERWISE LIABLE. MOREOVER, MUCH OF LIBERIAN FLEET MADE UP OF LARGE, MODERN OIL TANKERS WHICH COULD NOT ENTER, MUCH LESS SERVE, LIBERIAN PORTS.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, AND FACT THAT OUR OBJECTIVE MAY BE ATTAINED BY ENCOURAGING NOTHING MORE CONTROVERSIAL THEN FOOT-DRAGGING, EMBASSY OPTIMISTIC ITS CHANCES DISSUADE GOL FROM RATIFYING CONVENTION. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE NECESSARY PERSUADE INTRUSCO AND, THROUGH IT, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, THAT CONVENTION WILL REDUCE ATTRACTIVENESS OF LIBERIAN FLAG OF CONVENIENCE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE FURNISH EMBASSY DETAILED ANALYSIS OF NEGATIVE EFFECT CONVENTION PROVISIONS ON CARGO SHARING, DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THIRD-FLAG AND NON-CONFERENCE SHIPPING, ETC. WOULD HAVE ON SHIPS UNDER LIBERIAN FLAG.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE, MARITIME FLAGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MONROV04456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740208-0891
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974073/aaaaabzj.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 164561
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIPPING: CONVENTION ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES
TAGS: ETRN, LI, UNCTAD, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005